

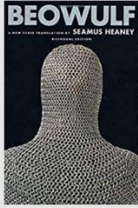
JMU ENGLISH

SUMMER 2020 COURSES

(Maymester Online)

ENG 221: Middle Ages Goes to the Movies

Dr. Alan Baragona



*The Middle Ages
Go to the M^ovies!*

Five texts from *Beowulf* to Dante's *Inferno*:
How (and why) moviemakers have looked at
them through modern eyes and camera
lenses from the silent era to the 21st-century.

ENG 221: American Environmental Literature

Dr. Paul Bogard

In this course we explore the rich tradition of American Environmental Literature and examine its importance for our lives today. Already this literature has inspired the creation of national parks, legislation to protect clean air and water, rules to control chemicals, protection of endangered species and places, and more. From its beginnings it has questioned our definitions of what it means to be patriotic, progressive, successful, healthy... and American. Now, science tells us the challenge of climate change is arguably the most important of the 21st century. Especially for someone college-aged, this means that everything in life—employment, family, children, aging—will happen within its context. As educated citizens, we have a choice: ignore this challenge, or face it with determination and joy. The reading and writing we do in this course will help us to understand how, with our main theme the question, *How Shall We Live?*

Requirements: a journal in which you respond in writing to steady reading assignments and video lectures, and three short papers. This course is asynchronous.

ENG 221: "Literature and the Environment"

Professor Katey Castellano

This course will discuss how literature and language shape our cultural understanding of the environment. Due to COVID-19, all the texts for this course will be available through Canvas. Assignments include weekly reflection papers, a mid-term, and a final. The class counts towards General Education Cluster 2 and the Environmental Humanities Minor. Email any questions to Professor Castellano at castelkm@jmu.edu.



ENG 221: Sushi and Kung Pao Chicken with a Slice of Apple Pie: Introduction to Asian-American Literature

Dr. Debali Mookerjee-Leonard

The course is designed to introduce students to a variety of writings by Asian-American authors. It will explore the historical formation of Asian American identities, issues of immigration, citizenship, race, and about the aesthetic forms of representation explored by Asian American writers and artists. While we will devote most of our time to literary texts, we will also direct some of our critical attention to the role of popular culture in the ongoing construction of Asian and Asian American identities.

This course fulfills the General Education Cluster 2 Group 3 (Literature) requirement, "Identity, Diversity, Power" requirement for the English major, it also counts towards the requirements for the World Literature minor, and the American Studies minor.

English 221: Modernity and Appetite

Dr. Molly O'Donnell

This course introduces students to global literary figures and movements (seventeenth century – present) through inquiry into “appetites.” Through this theme, we will consider both the pitfalls and triumphs of appetite in all its forms as presented in literature.

- What drives our actions?
- What passions help or hurt us?
- Are humans innately subject to physical, emotional, or intellectual appetites?
- How do our appetites define and control us? How do we suppress them to conform, achieve, disguise, or shine?
- What are the consequences of sated desire or, alternately, want?
- Is the response to specific appetites individual or collective?
- How do our appetites impact others?
- Do our notions of the validity of appetite change over history and in different cultures?

In this course students will think critically about these questions within larger contexts.



And remembering...
Remembering, with twinklings and twinges,
As they lean over the beans in their rented back room that is full of beads and
receipts and dolls and clothes, tobacco crumbs, vases and fringes.

—Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Bean Eaters”

English 222: Lyric Poetry

Professor Greg Wrenn

This online general education course is meant to introduce you to the pleasures of reading and writing about lyric poetry, which focuses on emotion rather than telling a story. William Shakespeare, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sylvia Plath, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost—they’re all lyric poets, and we’ll be discussing their masterpieces, along with others by the likes of Adrienne

Rich, Yusef Komunyakaa, and Li-Young Lee, in order to learn the fundamentals of poetic craft and contend with some central poetic themes. At the heart of this course, though, are the vital skills of critical thinking, close reading, and empathy, and we'll be practicing them often in a series of mini-essays and class discussions.



ENG 235

Dr. Mark Rankin


Dragons! Heroes! Reluctant wives! Satire before Stephen Colbert! Poetry by kings and queens! Come and see what you have been missing! Meet the women authors you've never heard of—but could eat you for breakfast!

This course will offer a survey—for General Education cluster 2 credit--of fascinating authors who lived and worked before 1800 in England. Students can expect entertainment, enrichment, and a wider perspective on ways of thought in the modern world. Questions should be directed to Dr. Mark Rankin (rankinmc@jmu.edu).

ENG 239: Studies in World Literature: African Oral Literature

Dr. Besi Muhonja

This course offers an overview of African oral literatures, exploring form and style, relevance and function in specific genres including folktales, witticisms, praise poetry, children's games, and songs. Through an exploration of spiritual, social, and political themes and content of oral literature, this introductory course contextualizes orature as part of the world sense and day-to-day structures and operations of African communities. May be used for general education credit.




Interested in the day-to-day structures of African communities?

ENG 239: Studies in World Literature

African Oral Literature

This course offers an overview of African oral literatures. Explore form, style, relevance, and function in specific genres including folktales, witticisms, praise poetry, children's games, and songs.
May be used for gen ed credit.

**May 4-Week Session 1
with Dr. Besi Muhonja**



ENG 247: American Literature to 1865

Dr. Matthew Rebhorn

ENG 247: AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1865

■ This course aims to explore the foundations of American Literature from its origins to, arguably, the most significant event in this country's history—the American Civil War. Helping to guide our exploration of the diverse literary texts constituting "American Literature" during this time period, we will be looking at the numerous formal, stylistic, and thematic ways in which all of these texts "contest," or challenge, what it meant to be American. Exploring the rich texts of this course, therefore, from Puritan sermons to Enlightenment autobiographies, from Transcendental essays to slave narratives, we will not discover the "real" American experience beneath this era. Rather, we will begin to see the ways in which these contests over the meaning of race, gender, history, class, and religion supplied the foundational energy that drove this country onto the national stage.

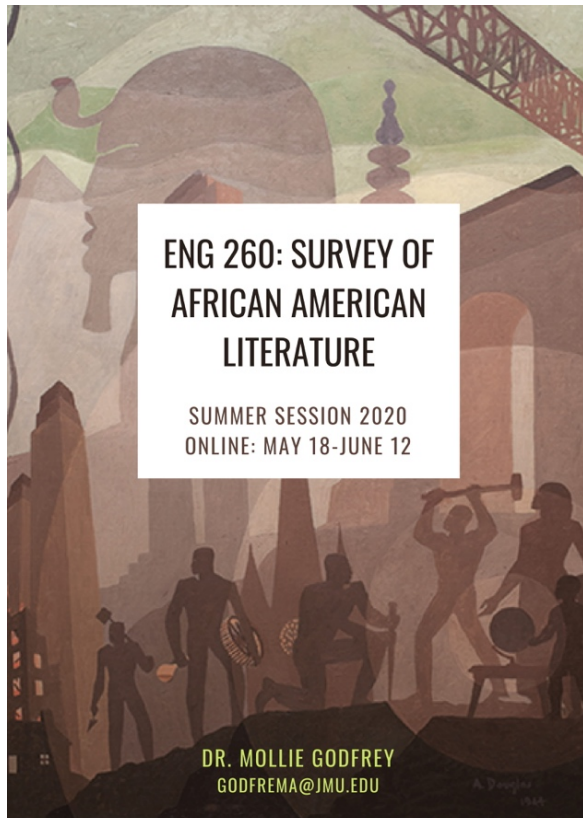
Professor Rebhorn



ENG 260: Survey of African American Literature

Dr. Mollie Godfrey

This course introduces students to major authors, literary forms, and movements in African American literature. We study the emergence and flourishing of African American literature over the past two centuries, noting common as well as diverging themes, techniques, and arguments over the coherence of African American literature as a genre. Throughout the semester we will explore antebellum, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights, Black Arts, and contemporary writers in their historical contexts as well as make connections between texts across historical periods.



ENG 391: Introduction to Creative Writing (Nonfiction)

Dr. Paul Bogard

In this introductory level writing course, we will study and practice the elements that make creative nonfiction such a versatile and vibrant genre, one that promises the creative writer a world of opportunity. Indeed, as the editors of the journal *Creative Nonfiction* explain, “We are always on the lookout for true stories, well-told, about any subject.”

We will begin by reading published creative nonfiction to understand the breadth and possibility of the genre, and to practice reading as writers—asking, ‘How can I learn from what they are doing, and what can I steal?’ (Or, at least, borrow.) We will learn the language creative writers use, such as “persona” and “voice” and “style,” and practice writing essential craft features such as scene and reflection, place and description. We will learn the process of commenting constructively on the work of our peers. And, we will write our own essays—trying our hand at weaving sensory detail, firsthand experience, research, vulnerability, and humor into our own “true stories, well-told.”

Requirements: steady reading and responding to published essays; short written assignments; drafting of two (2) personal essays; reading and responding to the work of your peers; a final portfolio of revised work.

This course is asynchronous.



“An artist’s life is an unconventional life. It leads away from the example of the past. It struggles painfully against its own conditioning. It appears to rebel but in reality it is an inspired way of life.”

—Agnes Martin, “Advice to Young Artists”

English 391: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction

Professor Greg Wrenn

In this online intro creative nonfiction course, our focus will be on the uplifting aspects of the human experience: beauty, well-being, healing, kindness, nature, humor, gratitude, forgiveness, and love. We will be reading celebrated essayists such as Annie Dillard and Alice Walker and learning how to write creative nonfiction that balances scene and summary, fact and feeling. Weekly optional video conferences and writing workshops will help foster a sense of community. This is going to be an enjoyable and enlightening four weeks together!

ENG 392: Introduction to Poetry Writing

Professor Laurie Kutchins

Poetry can save lives! Writing Poetry can keep us more grounded, stable and resilient in times of confusion, crisis, upheaval, war, and unprecedented pandemics. This 4-week course will give you ample opportunities to write poems, to learn about poetic craft, and to put the craft to use in your creative writing. As an online course, you will work with a weekly structure composed of reading and writing assignments, and participating in Group Critique Sessions online. The course culminates in a Poetry Portfolio of revised, finished poems.

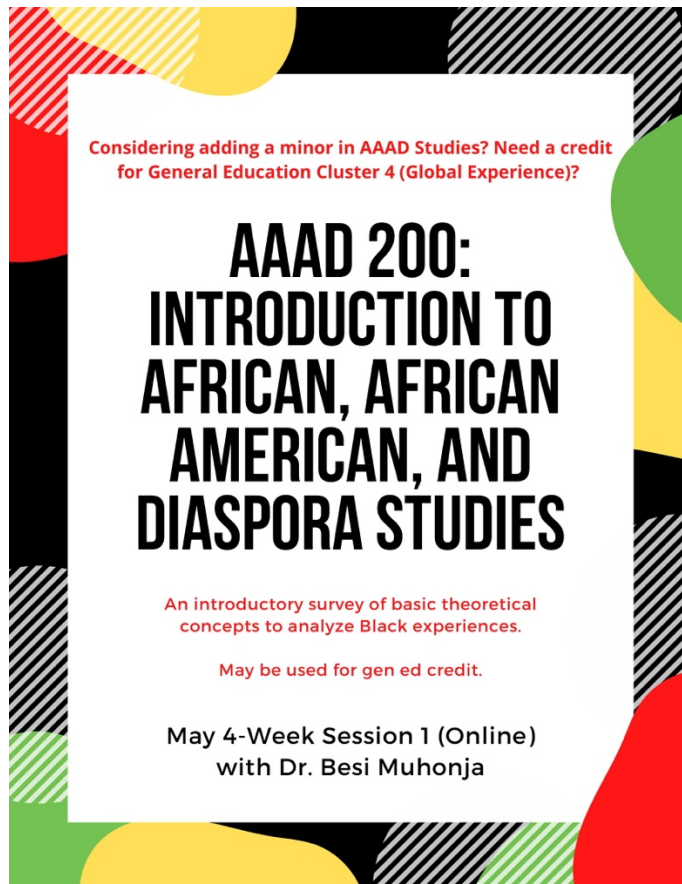
AAAD 200: Introduction to African, African American, and Diaspora Studies

Dr. Besi Brilliant Muhonja

May 4-Week Session 1

This is a General Education Cluster 4 (Global Experience) course

An introductory survey of basic theoretical concepts to analyze the Black experience, with special focus on the general historical process common to Africa and the African Diaspora. May be used for general education credit.





AMST 200-4101: Intro to American Studies (Lecture)

Dr. Laura Henigman

May 18, 2020-Jun 12, 2020 (Online)

AMST 200-4201: Intro to American Studies (Lecture)

Dr. Laura Henigman

Jun 15-Jul 10 (Online)

How and why do we study America? This course takes a multidisciplinary approach to understanding American culture -- we will look at films, art, fiction and autobiographies, popular culture, and works of analysis of sociology and technology to ask the question: how do Americans define themselves, and how do those historical self-definitions respond to a growing and changing world? This course fulfills the General Education requirement Cluster Two Group One.